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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
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R 242010Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5491
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINGSTON 7917

USCINCSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/23/86 (FORBES, JOHN D) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITREP NO. 4

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. VIOLENCE
--ON OCTOBER 22 POLICE KILLED 5 ARMED MEN IN A SHOOT OUT IN BULL BAY, LOCATED IN THE ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY PREVIOUSLY HELD BY SLAIN PNP MP ROY MCGANN, AND RECOVERED ONE WEAPON.
-- TWO DRIVERS OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) CANDIDATE FOR NORTH WEST ST. CATHERINE, JACK STEPHENSON, WERE MURDERED ON OCTOBER 22 WHILE PASSING OUT CAMPAIGN LITERATURE FOR THE PNP CANDIDATE. A SENIOR MFA ASSOCIATE OF STEPHENSON TOLD EMBOFF ON OCTOBER 23 THAT ONE DRIVER HAD VENTURED INTO AN AREA DISTRIBUTING PNP LITERATURE AND WHEN HE DID NOT RETURN THE OTHER FOLLOWED.
-- THE DAILY GLEANER OF OCTOBER 23 CARRIED A REPORT THAT JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) CANDIDATE FOR WEST CENTRAL KINGSTON IVAN MOORE NARROWLY ESCAPED INJURY WHEN HE WAS SHOT AT WHILE ON A TOUR OF HIS CONSTITUENCY ON OCTOBER 21. A MAN WALKING BESIDE HIM WAS WOUNDED IN THE STOMACH BY THE GUNFIRE.
-- A MAN ACCUSED OF BEING A "LABOURTIE" WAS STABBED TO DEATH BY A GROUP OF MEN IN THE POLITICALLY TROUBLED CITY OF MAY PEN, CALRENDON.
-- POLICE REPORTS CARRIED IN THE DAILY GLEANER OF OCTOBER 23 INDICATE THAT IN THE PARISH OF ST. ANN A GROUP OF JLP SUPPORTERS ATTACHED THE HOME OF A PNP CONSTITUENCY EXECUTIVE AND BURNT IT TO THE GROUND ON OCTOBER 21. THE SAME ARTICLE CARRIES A REPORT THAT ON THE SAME DAY A GROUP OF PNP SUPPORTERS ATTACKED AND TOTALLY DESTROYED THE CAMPAIGN VEHICLE OF PRINCESS LAWES, JLP CANDIDATE FOR NORTH WEST ST. ANN.
-- ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 22, A PNP RALLY OF SEVERAL THOUSAND GETTING UNDERWAY IN SPANISH TOWN'S MAIN SQUARE WAS DISRUPTED BY ROCK THROWING AND GUNFIRE. PRIMIN MANELY, WHO WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE RALLY, WAS WARNED TO STAY AWAY BY SECURITY PERSONNEL. MANLEY PROCEEDED TO THE RALLY AGAINST THIS ADVICE. SOME SHOOTING STARTED AGAIN SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, AND THE RALLY HAD TO BE CANCELLED. FOUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING A SOLDIER, WERE INJURED IN THE INCIDENT. NO ONE IN MANLEY'S PARTY WAS HARMED. REPORTS CONFLICT ON WHETHER THE COMMOTION RESULTED FROM A JLP CROWD ATTACK ON THE RALLY OR FROM AN ALTERCATION BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE ASSEMBLED PNP SUPPORTERS. JBC TELEVISION GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE INCIDENT, SHOWING SCURRYING CITIZENS, RUNNING POLICE AND SOLDIERS, PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN SPRAWLED FLAT ON THE STAGE WITH A PISTOL IN HAND, AND A PUZZLED MANLEY EDGING OFF THE STAGE SURROUNED BY UZI-TOTING BODYGUARDS. MANLEY BLAMED THE ATTACK ON THE JLP. BOTH THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE JLP HAVE DENIED ANY RESPONSIBILITY. LOCAL SCUTTLEBUT SPECULATES THAT THE SPANISH TOWN POPULATION COULD NOT TAKE ANY MORE OF PNP POLITICS AND DECIDED TO DISTRUPT THE GATHERING AND THAT THE PNP BROKE UP THE RALLY ITSELF AS PART OF ITS CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO BLAME THE OPPOSITION FOR VIOLENCE. BBC TELEVISION AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WERE PRESENT AT THE RALLY.
-- INCIDENT BREAKDOWN - DEATHS - OCTOBER 16-22, 1980:
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED MURDERS: 29
B. SUSPECTED POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MURDERS: 17
C. SUSPECTED CRIMINALYY-MOTIVATED MURDERS: 6
D. MURDERS OF UNKNOWN MOTIVATION: 6
E. PERSONS KILLED BY THE SECURITY FORCES: 9
(THESE STATISTICS ARE FROM THE DAILY GLEANER, WHICH REPORTS INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE INFORMATION CENTER (PIC).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY QV DATE 25 JUN 1982
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3. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WENT ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AND RADIO OCTOBER 22 TO REASSURE JAMAICANS THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 30 AS SCHEDULED. HE ACCUSED THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION OF INVENTING A LIE THAT THE PNP PLANNED TO CAUSE CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND POSTPOINE THE ELECTION. MANELY STATEE THAT " NO AMOUNT OF VIOLENCE, NO ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE, NO PROPHECIES OF POSTPONEMENT, NOT TERROR TACTICS WILL FORCE THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELECTION." MANLEY CALLED ON SEAGA TO STOP MAKING STATEMENTS WHICH COULD ENDANGER A PEACEFUL ELECTION.
-- FORMER MP AND PNP CANDIDATE FOR EAST RURAL ST. ANDREW ROY MCGANN WAS BURIED IN AN OFFICIAL FUNERAL ON OCTOBER 22. THE CONTROVERSIAL SOCIALIST REV. ERNIE GORDON WHO PRESIDED AT THE SERVICE (ATTENDED BY AN EMBOFF) , PREACHED THAT MCGANN HAD BEEN "KILLED BY FASCIST TERROR." GORDON CALLED MCGANN'S DEATH AN ASSASSINATION AND LINKED IT TO FASCISM IN CHILE AND GERMANY. HE SAID THAT JUST AS SS OFFICERS DRANK CHAMPAGNE AS EUROPEAN JEWS WERE GASSED, JAMAICAN FASCISTS DRANK CHAMPAGNE AFTER MCGANN'S KILLING. PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN MADE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY MILD REMARKS, AND PRIMIN MANELY READ A PASSAGE FROM EPHESIANS THAT CAMECLOSE TO A BIBLICAL INJUNCTION TO "STAND FIRM". THE SERVICE WAS AN ODD MIXTURE OF RELIGION AND POLITICS. IT BEGAN WITH THE SIGNING OF "MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF THE COMING OF THE LORD" AND INCLUDED THE PNP ARTY SONG " THE RED FLAG" AND MUCH WAVING OF CLENCHED FISTS, THE PARTY'S COMRADELY GREETING.
-- JLP SPOKESMAN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY WINSTON SHAULDING ISSUED A STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 22 URGING A CLAMPDOWN ON INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE "COMMITTING ACTS OF TERRORISM" DISGUISED AS SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN. SPAULDING CLAIMED TO HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT ACTS COMMITTED IN THESE DISGUISES WERE PART OF AN ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE SECURITY FORCES. SPAULDING REFERRED TO A RECENT THEFT IN WHICH OVER 200 MILITARY UNIFORMS WERE ALLEGEDLY TAKEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES' LAUNDRY.
-- SEVERAL EMBOFFS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW VIDEOTAPE OF OCTOBER 5 JLP RALLY AT A PARADE IN DOWNTOWN KINGSTON. THE RALLY RECEIVED LITTLE LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE, AS IT WAS OVERSHADOWED BY PNP'S MONTEGO BAY RALLY ON THE SAME DAY. EMBOFFS WERE STRUCK BY THE SIZE OF THE CROWD AND BY ITS ENTHUSIAMS IN SPITE OF A HEAVY DOWNPOUR. AN EMBOFF WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE PNP OCTOBER 5 GATHERING ESTIMATED THAT THE JLP ATTRACTED A CROWD ROUGHLY TWICE THE SIZE OF THE PNP'S.
-- A SOURCE CLOSE TO OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 20 THAT IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE CAMPAIGN, THE JLP WILL CONDUCT A SERIES OF "BANDWAGON" RALLIES THROUGHOUT JAMAICA. SUBSTANTIVE SPEECHES WILL BE AVOIDED; THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON MUSIC, ENTHUSIASM AND BUILDING A SPIRIT AMONG SUPPORTERS TO TURN OUT A HEAVY VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.
-- A HOT TOPIC IN KINGSTON'S RUMOR MILL THESE DAYS IS WHETHER MIDDLE CLASS VOTERS, ESPECIALLY MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN, WILL STAY FOR ELECTION DAY. THERE IS MUCH TALK OF LEAVING THE ISLAND BEFORE THE ELECTION, BOTH FROM A FEAR OF VIOLENCE AND FROM APPREHENSION THAT A VICTORIOUS PNP GOVERNMENT WOULD CLOSE THE AIRPORTS TO PREVENT THE EXODUS OF PERSONS WITH NEEDED SKILLS. SOME CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PULLED OUT OF SCHOOLS. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT DETECTED ANY INCREASE IN VISA APPLICANTS (IN FACT BUSINESS IS SLOW THESE DAYS IN THE CONSULAR SECTION) AND WE SUSPECT THAT THERE IS MORE PARANOIA THAN SUBSTANCE TO REPORTS OF A PRE-ELECTION EXODUS. HOWEVER, MOST FLIGHTS OUT OF KINGSTON ON ELECTION DAY ARE SOLIDLY BOOKED, INDICATING THAT A SMALL NUMBER WILL VOTE AND THEN GO ELSEWHERE TO AWAIT THE RESULTS.
LAWRENCE

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